

the last day in May. On the first day of June, the final winter storm ended and the white carpet of snow gave way to the gray carpet of spring tundra. Six of us landed on the aufeis sheets of the lower Kongakut near Pagilak Creek. Our hope was to cross the western British Mountains from the Kongakut River in Alaska to the Firth River in the Yukon Territory. We succeeded in this endeavor. Deep snow limited our movements for the first days but, by June 7, we had ascended Pagilak Creek and crossed the pass into the upper Malcolm River at the international border. As if to accommodate our political imaginations, the Brooks Range changes in character abruptly at this place, showing a heavy glacial history to the west and appearing almost entirely unglaciated to the east. On a tributary of the Malcolm leading to Sheep Creek, we found an anomalous expression of white spruce, the northernmost spruce on the American Continent. Grizzly and wolverine also were present. Three minor climbs were made at the passes, along with ascents of limestone walls and pinnacles (5.4). Our members included Victor Bradford, Mary Weidler, Jerry Weidler, Fred Smith and the prominent Swiss ornithologist Peter Balwin.

DENNIS SCHMIDT

*Ascent and Descent of the Echooka River.* In early July, a successful attempt was made to reach the headwaters of the Echooka and descend the entire drainage to its confluence with the Sagavanigtok. Crossing a high pass in relays from the Ivishak, we found a fabulous world of limestone pillars, promontories, canyons and waterfalls. But the main drainage was without water. The headwater summit (marked 7240 a mile west of the actual peak) is aproned with two trunk glaciers that constitute the main source of the river. An ascent of this peak directly up the north ridge was made in rain and snow. The corniced ice walls of the north face give way to a rock summit. The descent of the river was arduous, beginning with relays of equipment 12 miles to a small promontory that I hoped would prove an aquifer. The river did rematerialize at the base of this promontory. Four days' travel through shallow strands, aufeis sheets and deep wide channels brought us to the Sagavanigtok. The Echooka was one of the Arctic's last unexplored rivers.

DENNIS SCHMIDT

*Endicott Mountains.* Peak 6800 is one of the most astonishing limestone walls in the Brooks Range. It stands above a beautiful canyon on the upper western fork of the Itkillik River, immediately east of the Cocked Hat Glacier. Approaching from Anaktuvuk Pass, we were exploring the various terraced headwalls and canyons of the eastern Endicotts. We crossed Nanushuk Glacier to a pass into the upper Itkillik. Exploring the glaciers, shelves and lakes along the way, we eventually set up camp eight miles below that pass. Peak 6800 was approached initially from the celebrated canyon under the north face. We ascended at a point where this canyon turns south into the glacier. Crossing this glacier, we reached the pass under the south face of 6800. We were to find the summit by this face. Continuing east through the southern canyon, we made a complete circumnavigation of the massif. Members included Nicholas Stielau, Charles Stielau, Martha Davis, Ronald Fried, Howard Kamentsky and the customary leaders, Dr. Ruthmary Deuel and me.

DENNIS SCHMITT

*Mt. Prindle, McCloud.* Around July 4, Ian McRae and I climbed a five-pitch (200-foot rope) route to the right of *The Fleecing of America*. The route, *McCloud* (5.9 A2), was a combina-